

Sewer Video Log Note Descriptions

(per a 5/20/13 phone meeting between Mike Mulhearn, Public Works Dept., City of Mountain View
and Toerock, Assoc.)

General note about video logs: Lines were last systematically televised in the late 1990's. Prior to that, the Public Works Dept. became aware of sewer line problems when a blockage occurred (e.g., a line may be offset causing sewer waste to accumulate and overflow) and spot televising. There was no way to systematically identify breaks in the lines until they started regularly televising sewer lines in the 1990s.

Video Log Note	Description
Numbers noted in logs	Older logs were rated using the NASCO system, which assigns a number code signifying the issue (i.e. roots, etc.). The numbers are added up to determine the severity of the problem.
Crack	Cracks don't necessarily mean a point of infiltration/exfiltration, but it's possible. Cracks aren't considered an issue until they start to move.
Broken Bell	Bell is a joint that lock pipes in with a neoprene gasket. Water can infiltration/exfiltrate at a broken bell. Bells were formerly clay, but are now made of plastic.
Roots	Tree roots start out the size of a human hair and can make their way into a pipe through a crack or a bell. As they start to grow they can separate the pipe. A root notation does not necessarily indicate a point of infiltration/exfiltration. "Heavy Roots" indicates many roots. Sewer maintenance includes cutting roots.
Offset joint	When one section of the line is pushed to the side. For example, when looking down the pipe, through the bell you should see a perfect circle. If the pipe is offset, then you won't see a perfect circle. This may be an indication of a broken bell and a point of water infiltration/exfiltration. If the line is offset at least an inch then a repair is warranted.
Sag	Over time, the ground on which a pipe is laid may settle causing a portion of the pipe to sag and sewer water to increase to greater depths (pipe normally falls as 0.25-inch/ft). A sag may mean a compromised bell.
Line poor	Lines were given an overall rating. There doesn't appear to be any direct relationship to line rating and breaks in the line.
Infiltration	<p>It is presumed that where infiltration is noted that it's groundwater (GW). GW infiltration on the sewer video looks like a pencil running through the pipe and is normally seen infiltrating from the top or the side of the pipe. It is possible for groundwater to infiltrate from the bottom of the pipe depending on water pressure, but this can't normally be seen if there is sewer in the pipe.</p> <p>Where there is a break in the line it is possible that sewer water can also exfiltrate the pipe. This would not be detected by the sewer video. <u>M.Mulhearn stated that he has repaired a lot of pipes and hasn't seen water come out unless there's a piece missing or major break, something like that.</u></p>
Repair	The repair note is a recommendation. However, it is likely that those issues with a repair rating of "3" were repaired.

